AMERICA SPEAKS

The article "Of Time and Life in the USA" in last month's issue of this magazine met with such keen interest among our readers and brought us so many requests for more information of this kind that we are following it up with a second article based on the same sources but dealing with topics not discussed in the previous issue. —K.M.

LIFE'S MANPOWER SHORTAGE

TO judge from many issues of *Time* and *Life* of 1942 and 1943, the USA's chief worry during that period was the shortage of manpower. We quote extensively from *Life*'s version of this problem. The charts on the following page which go with it, also appeared in *Life*.

In these charts, for peacetime 1940, wartime 1942 and total wartime 1943, the men and women in the armed forces and war industry are grouped together in black bands. The dark-gray bands represent the total non-productive population. Below the big charts the component units of each of these groups are analyzed in statistical breakdown.

In 1940 only 2,100,000 men and women, a thin black line in the chart, were producing and bearing arms. In the chart for 1943, the line has grown to a heavy black column. The job of winning the war will, by January 1944, engage directly the full-time energies of about 30,000,000 men and women.

That U.S. manpower is not infinite is the first lesson to be learned in the current crisis. It is the same lesson taught again and again by the succession of crises, in machine tools, light metals, ships and steel. Just as the nation has discovered in the case of of these inanimate materials, there is no true shortage manpower. There is simply not enough to expend in wasteful service to the U.S. peacetime myth of a continental infinity of resources. The nation has learned to schedule the flow of its inanimate resources. It must next tackle the job of allocating manpower, its most precious resource, to the armed forces, to war production, and to the minimum of services necessary to maintain the civilian economy.

As the chart for 1940 demonstrates, the most impressive fact about the world's most productive people in their last year of peace is that only 47,300,000 of them were engaged in production. This was little more than a third of the 131,669,275 U.S. population in that year. Even this third is padded with baseball players, chorus girls, musicians, undertakers and several million others who perform the countless, essentially nonproductive services of modern society. Included in light-gray areas on the 1940 chart are 4,400,000 unemployed who were looking for work: several million men and 18- and 19-year-old boys, who were not looking for work; and many more millions—children, able-bodied women, the over-aged and disabled—who were not expected to work. Clearly, in peacetime, the nation did not have to worry about manpower.

The ultimate solution of the manpower crisis is women. The black and dark-gray bands on the graph for 1943 add up to a total working force of 63,300,000 men and women—about 40% increase in our productive population over 1940. With 9,000,000 in the armed forces, there remains a pool of 34,000,000 able-bodied men, not nearly enough to staff the Government, to operate war and civilian industries and work the farms.

These 1943 quotas will have to be filled by women. By the beginning of 1944 nearly half the workers in civilian industry and nearly a third in war industry will be women. The 34,000,000 men workers, augmented only by the 1,200,000 boys who reach 18 every year, must also double as the armed forces' reserve, to meet upward revisions in strength and to replace casualties. These men in turn will be replaced by women. Because not all the women listed in the graph as "free for work" are actually capable of working, women in industry must eventually include many of the 10,700,000 mothers who have children under 10. The places of mothers shifted into industry will have to be taken by 3,000,000 youngsters assigned to part-time work.

The capabilities of the U.S. people are certainly a match for this long-range problem. The squeeze in manpower, however, is now. Competition within and between industries, among industries, draft boards and recruiting officers has finally scraped bottom. Millions of women must be hired for war and civilian industries from the reserves of women who have never worked before. From civilian industry, leaving a skeleton staff of 10,000,000 men, must be taken the last 5,000,000 of the nation's available skilled workers.

To allocate their skills and to bring totally unskilled women into industry, the U.S. must finally set up a national system of control.

TIME'S VERSION

One month later *Time*, in reviewing a new book, *Is There Enough Manpower?* by economist Harold W. Metz, wrote:

When Metz is through the reader knows that a nation riding along on a 42-hour work week, but talking about raising a 12,000,000 men army, and Lend-Leasing the world, is kidding itself. Metz asks: What is the optimum quantity of war materials which we can in fact produce to support our huge armed forces?

The present manpower force of the U.S., counting those in the services, is roughly 58 million. By 1943 it might be pushed to 62 million, and by 1944 to 65 million, through a huge recruiting of youth, a heavy drawing on women, and the problematical importation of 250,000 workers from Mexico. At the same time, a high increase in hours worked will be needed if we are serious about the manpower shortage. The present average work week of 42 hours will have to be advanced to at least 48 hours and actual work schedules to over 50 hours to allow for absenteeism.

By these steps gross national production may be pushed to $155 billion in 1944. If at the same time output of civilian goods is mightily slashed, and the Government economizes on its non-military expenditures (such as big Government payrolls), actual military expenditures may rise to a colossal $84 billion in 1944.

Is this output sufficient to supply an armed force of nine and a half million in 1943, let alone twelve million in 1944? Mr. Metz states that for lack of military data on the equipment needed per man these questions can get no categoric answer. But the Metz implication is that while an ultimate output of $84 billion might be enough for an armed force of only nine and a half million, it almost certainly would not be enough for twelve million if the U.S. also wants to go on Lend-Leasing to her Allies.

Summing up, Mr. Metz concludes that if the U.S. is to raise only a force of nine and a half million men it must at once make "a number of significant decisions." These are: 1) to increase the working force and the average work week from 42 hours to at least 48 hours; 2) drastically reduce the civilian output of goods back to real depression levels of $60 billion; 3) greatly increase the shipbuilding program. But how, asks Mr. Metz, can these decisions be made? They cannot be made singly by the Army, the Navy, the Maritime Commission, nor the Manpower Board. They can be made only by the President.

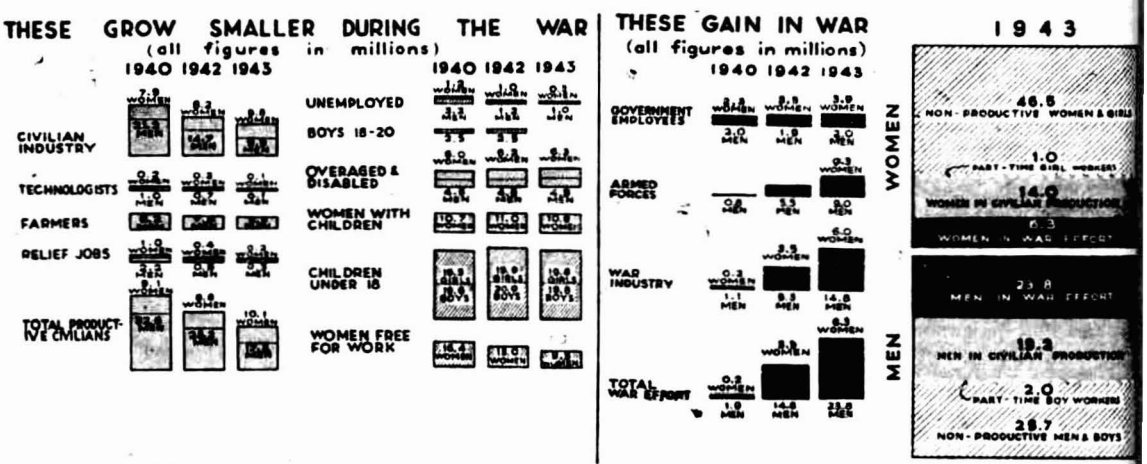
Since these articles and charts appeared in the two American magazines, the strength of the US armed forces has gone up to a total of 11.2 million men—7.7 million for the army and 3.5 million for the navy. To what extent this growth of the US armed forces has affected the labor market can be gauged from the fact that in 1939 the US Army consisted of only 174,000 men. To keep up the present standard, which the American authorities consider sufficient, close to 100,000 men still have to be called up every month. According to a recent issue of the New York weekly, *The American*, more than one million American soldiers had to be released from military service for reasons of health since Pearl Harbor, and the present rate of monthly releases for the same reasons and not counting the war casualties is about 70,000 men. In this connection *Time* contributes an interesting item :

Psychoneurosis is the 1943 name for World War I's shell shock. But it goes much further. Psychoneurotics who have never heard a shot fired in anger are now being discharged from the Army at the rate of 1,000 a week.

Meanwhile, the size of the Army has almost doubled, and if the figure of psychoneurosis cases has done the same it would mean about 100,000 psychoneurotics a year.

DRAFTED TEACHERS

Both magazines give many indications of the serious consequences which the mobilizing of manpower for the war effort has had on the various branches of life in America. This, for example, is what *Time* has to say on the resulting lack of teachers:



This chart, taken from *Life*, explains the manpower shortage in the USA. Gray bands people employed in civilian production; shaded bands: people not included in the process of production; black bands: people employed in the war effort. The large fields at the right represent the total situation in 1943

Many U.S. educators last week foresaw an "educational collapse" because of a shortage of teachers. Teachers not only leave school to go to war (some 39,000 have been drafted). They also leave for better paid wartime or other private jobs (since Pearl Harbor some 37,000 have done so).

In Illinois 1,000 rural schools have closed. In Minnesota some towns lost all their teachers, then their replacements too.

Said Executive Secretary Willard Earl Givens of the National Educational Association :

"Of our 894,000 public-school teachers, principals and supervisors, 40% are paid less than $1,200 annually. Nearly 8% are paid less than $600 for the present school year. Living costs have advanced over 20%, teachers' salaries less than 7%. As salaries rise in industry and private employment, teacher shortages appear in the best-paying city systems, are intensified in rural areas. Unless a way is found to relieve the financial difficulties of teachers, our schools will suffer and millions of our children will be handicapped for life. If our schools are to carry effectively the increased wartime burdens, they must have federal financial help."

Lack of manpower forces one enterprise to steal workers from another. *Time* described the case of a scrap business enterprise in Newark which sent a foreman to Georgia to lure laborers to his employer's firm, although there were only a few farm laborers left in Georgia, most of them having gone into more profitable jobs. As to the foreman's proceedings in Georgia, *Time* writes :

While the farms could not even pay $2 or $3 a day, the foreman offered $30 to $40 a week and hinted about girls around Newark whose boy friends had gone into the army.

ALARM CLOCKS AND NEUROTICS

Americans are fond of statistics, but while these may give a correct picture of quantities they do not show up quality. The quality of the 1.3 million workers employed in America's war production in 1940 was naturally far higher than that of the 19.5 million workers inducted into work since then—many of them ex-unemployed, inexperienced youngsters, and women. Labor discipline has declined. According to *Time* "a survey in the plane factories of the U.S. West Coast showed that absenteeism of workers in January 1943 was 6.2% as compared with a peacetime norm of 2.5%."

Absenteeism is the term used in America for the habit of many workers of not coming to work when they do not feel like it; it does not include sickness. The plane factories of the West Coast, representing one of the key war industries, should have a relatively high standard among their workers as compared with other branches of the industry. In mass production particularly, the unexpected absence of 6.2 per cent of the workers is bound to lead to disturbances in production. The number of workers who come too late for work is also large. *Time* writes :

Slugabed war workers have had an excuse, such as it was: in all the U.S. there was scarcely an alarm clock to be had at any price. (WPB closed the industry last July 1 to save metal.) Now it was WPB's turn to be alarmed. War production might suffer.

Last week WPB clockmakers agreed on a victory-model alarm clock, sparing of metal, unsparing of noise. Some 1,700,000 will be produced (1940's output: 11,500,000).

FUN HELPS

Naturally, the joke manufacturers have got hold of this problem. In a Manhattan night club a blind man appeared on the stage and asked a doctor whether there was any chance of a deferment. Answered the doctor: "Not unless your seeing-eye dog goes lame."

To bring large numbers of women into industrial and other work in America, pretty uniforms play an important role. Who would not like to look like the gyroscope factory girl shown in *Life* and reproduced in our last issue (p.401)? The American Women's Voluntary Services also try to win members by publishing pictures of girls in this organization's smart uniforms and captions as for example :

Betty says formation marching is fun, makes for quicker going through crowds.

Of course, the male workers, too, must have their fun. *Life* published an illustrated article "Showmanship Keeps the Workers Happy." There is one picture which shows a large crowd dancing. The caption reads :

Dances for Douglas [Aircraft Factory] workers are held during lunch with music by Douglas Welfare Band.

In another picture, models show new fashions to a crowd of Lockheed Aircraft Factory workers during their lunch hour, while North American Aircraft amuses its workers with free boxing matches and visits from movie stars.

By these means the workers are meant to forget the terrible price which is being paid for the mass induction of unskilled workers into the mushrooming factories. We have not seen any recent figures. However, even

in the first year at war the losses were huge. In *Time* we found :

11,600 workers killed or injured in accidents—every day in the U.S.A., 23,500 dead and 2,000,000 others injured in the first six months of 1942.

In April 1944 the OWI (Office of War Information, the headquarters of American propaganda) announced that 190,000 workers in American armament industries had lost their lives through accidents since Pearl Harbor.

To fill the manpower shortage, in addition to the full-time workers, part-time volunteer workers are mobilized. Under the effective slogan "Week end with pay," people are asked to do war work during their week ends, to get paid for it and to have their fun in addition.

Here's week-end work that will help win the war. Business and professional men, clerks, college students, farmers, all able-bodied men. . . you are urgently needed to work on SP (Southern Pacific Railway) tracks in this vicinity . . . . Help win the war, get healthy outdoor exercise and be paid for it. When interviewed, the week-end workers were very cheerful.

Said Storekeeper Floyd Bagley: "It's good exercise." Accountant Gover Lowe: "I've got a boy in England and another up north . . . . This gives me a chance to do something." Verne Hickey, Chamber of Commerce president: "Merely a matter of changing a golf stick for a shovel . . . . Didn't even have to change my stance much."

That the induction of people not used to industrial work into industry may also lead to all kinds of neuroses can be seen from the following quotation :

BLOOD AND VALVES

Visitors at Manhattan's Perls Galleries last week walked into two small rooms full of blood. Blood trickled over bare bosoms and in a pattern of veins up and down the stomach of a lady, whose only leg was a gigantic sausage that tapered off into a yawning volcano. Blood also oozed from the terrifying eye of an outside male head. Blood was conspicuous in nearly all Painter Frederick Haucke's 20 nightmarish oils.

When war came, Haucke thought he ought to take some part in it. So he got a job with Bethlehem Shipbuilding's Staten Island Yard, now works ten hours a night repairing valves on torpedo-gashed ships. Valves stimulate Haucke so much that he paints whenever he is not working, sometimes sleeps only two hours a night.

GIANT BUREAUCRACY

The shortage of manpower and the search for remedies has made the Americans more conscious than they had been before of the tremendous rise of bureaucracy, which is unprecedented in America and, except for the USSR, even in the world. This is what *Time* says :

LOOK WHO'S HOARDING!

The number of men now serving in the armed forces is about 25% more than in World War I. The number employed in war industry is about 10% greater. But the U.S. now has 2,571,500 men and women on the Federal Government payroll (up 280% from World War I) and 3,017,632 working for State and local governments (up 100% from World War I). Total bureaucracy: 5,589,132.

To Oklahoma's able young Congressman Almer Stillwell Mike Monroney, who dug up these statistics, their relation to the manpower shortage is obvious. Said he: "Each branch and bureau is reaching and building up its own overhead and staff without any measure of essentiality . . . . To a large extent, the Government is creating its own manpower problem."

That this increase in the number of officials does not necessarily mean an increase in their efficiency but instead leads to endless conflicts among the "Czars" and miles of red tape, is constantly emphasized in the magazine.

Over Washington, gloomy under late winter skies, spread the deeper, greyer, more paralyzing gloom made by men. Grumpily, unhappily, but perforce, men faced the fact that the Administration's war agencies are still full of sand and emery dust, their borrowed time is fast running out, ahead lies another screaming crisis when all the wheels will grind to a stop and only a major repair job can get them started again.

Czars were now a dime a dozen: the U.S. had Economic Czar James F. Byrnes, Production Czar Donald Nelson, Manpower Czar Paul McNutt, Food Czar Claude Wickard, Rubber Czar William Jeffers. But they were more like Grand Dukes than Czars: under their high-sounding titles, divided authority and lack of direction left them still snarled in invisible red tape.

Rubber Czar Jeffers, trying to do his job, had got all fouled up with the Army and Navy. Economic Czar Byrnes had stepped in to cut away the tangle—but no one was sure last week who would enforce the compromise he had laid down. Manpower Czar McNutt began stretching his muscles with a new work-or-fight order—and Congress promptly raised a howl. Czar Wickard was apparently frozen with fright at the horrible food prospects ahead.

After last summer's wasting days of turmoil, Franklin Roosevelt had stepped in with some spectacular reorganizations—appointment of Byrnes and Jeffers, of McNutt and Wickard, a shake-up of WPB. Now, even inside the Administration, observers agreed that this, too, had been a stop-gap. The sound effects had been terrific, the visual impression of Olympian lightnings spectacular—but nothing had really been changed. The era of good cheer had run its course; some nasty trouble brewed. The only consolation for plain citizens was that, despite the procrastination and the palace revolutions, the Army somehow grew and the munitions somehow got made. The U.S. was strong enough to survive even another vast, "absolutely final" reorganization.

THE ROOSEVELT GANG

One very often comes across accounts of personal feuds which hampered the work of the nation.

Two top-flight U.S. businessmen last week clashed head on in Washington in a struggle for power that is less indicative of their ambitions than it is of one bitter truth: the Government's top industrial command is still disorganized.

One protagonist in Washington's latest fracas is tough, shrewd Ferdinand Eberstadt, artillery captain in World War I, outstanding independent investment banker of the '30s, and currently charged with WPB's vital materials division. The other is Charles E. Wilson, whom Donald Nelson brought to Washington to take charge of WPB's production division.

In any U.S. business enterprise, materials control and production should be Siamese twins. Not so in Washington. Week ago Donald Nelson touched off the row when he turned over to Wilson (on Wilson's threat of resignation) certain all-important "industry divisions" which Ferd Eberstadt has labored long and hard to build up.

The men with whom President Roosevelt has surrounded himself receive much publicity in American magazines. This is not surprising since they wield extraordinary powers. *Life* published a picture gallery of what it called "Roosevelt's Party" (in distinction to the Democratic and Republican Parties). This gallery includes a remarkable number of Jews. Their long roll call is headed by the financial dictator of America, Treasury Secretary Henry Morgenthau. In describing Morgenthau's career, *Time* declares that he got his job as Secretary of the Treasury "by an accident of geography." His "gentleman's farm" being only twenty-five miles from Roosevelt's, the two men became friends. *Time* continues :

When he took the office [of Secretary of the Treasury] in 1934, one of his sisters wrote to her sons: "I can't understand why the President appointed your Uncle Henry . . . . He knows that Henry knows nothing about finance."

At the Treasury, Morgenthau got off to a bad start: he ordered guards to shine their shoes and stand at attention to "show respect for official superiors," clamped a strict censorship on Treasury underlings, relations with the press. His relations with Treasury higher-ups have been equally unfortunate: there are enough former Under Secretaries of the Treasury to start a lodge.

Other leading Jewish members of Roosevelt's Party in this picture gallery are :

Isador Lubin, economic adviser to the President and Commissioner of Labor Statistics.

Samuel Rosenman, Roosevelt's personal lawyer for many years. He organized the original Roosevelt "Brain Trust" in 1932, edited the Roosevelt State Papers, and now works on Roosevelt's speeches and advises the President on matters of personnel in the Government.

Mordecai Joseph Ezekiel, economic adviser to the Secretary of Agriculture.

Robert Roy Nathan, Chairman of the Planning Committee of WPB.

Solomon Bloom, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee. "He gets his orders from the White House and does exactly what Roosevelt wants." (*Life*)

A. J. Sabath, Chairman of the Rules Committee.

RED TAPE AND CORRUPTION

Another result of the mushrooming bureaucracy is the stifling amount of red tape which it brings forth. Consider for example that the grocers of America must handle about 14 billion rationing-book points a month. *Time* tells what strange blossoms bureaucracy has brought forth :

RED TAPE OF THE WEEK

To conserve horseshoes WPB brightly suggested that ". . . . horse owners save shoes by removing the shoes immediately after a period of road work or other work where shoes are necessary." Cracked Virginia Representative John W. Flannagan: "We must have zipper horseshoes now."

Bureaucratization also leads to a good deal of confusion :

Henry Paynter, onetime Hearst man, working away at his new OWI job, was amazed when a stranger walked into his office, introduced himself as head of the United Nations news bureau. "That is interesting," said Paynter. "So am I!"

Where there is confusion there is also fertile soil for corruption. *Time* mentions the following scandal :

One of the sorriest stories yet told about the U.S. Government's muddled attempts to provide cheap housing for war workers turned up last week. It concerned a 700-unit Winfield Park (N.J.) development built to house Kearny shipyard workers. Started in June 1941, the project will cost nearly $4,500,000 v. initial estimates of $3,200,000, is now only half rented because cellars flooded, roofs caved in, floors buckled, kitchen and plumbing equipment failed to turn up, doors "not operating" need refitting, porches sagged, and—in some cases—furnaces were so installed that heating pipes blocked basement entrances.

How deep bureaucracy and regimentation had entered into the life of private business too was stated by J. E. Otis Jr., President of Indiana's Dodge Manufacturing Corporation :

In the last analysis we have but one customer —Uncle Sam. Not only is he our only customer, but through OPA he fixes the prices at which we shall sell; he determines through WPB what materials we shall have and to what customers we shall deliver and when. He controls the wages and salaries we shall pay . . . sets standards of quality for our products; he tells how we shall keep our books and what records he requires us to maintain. Finally he takes in taxes about three-quarters of any profit and reserves the right through renegotiation to take away whatever additional amount he sees fit.

PITFALLS OF PATRIOTISM

The upheaval which war has brought to America cannot but affect the morals of the nation. Having grown up with the doctrine of the "abundant life," Americans are not used to making sacrifices. Most of them possess a powerful egoism, as described by *Time*:

Shoe rationing started the rumor that clothes rationing was coming. Fed on fear and selfishness, the rumor grew fast and fat. By this week it had snowballed into a buying wave that no denial from Washington could stop; department-store sales averaged up to 100% above this time last year; soft-goods counters were stripped bare; women went hog-wild over anything wearable at any price, of any style.

One Cleveland shopper ordered 75 pairs of stockings. Another got four coats, sizes 10, 12, 14, 16 for her growing daughter. A Los Angeles matron bought 16 dresses, four suits, three coats. One hefty customer grabbed a size-12 dress off a rack, told the salesgirl: "Yes, I'm too big for it, but I can always find someone to buy it from me if I can't have it altered."

A New York greybeard ordered the whole stock of suits a Fifth Avenue firm had in his size. Another man tried to buy all the size-32 shorts in a store. A girl bought 27 pairs of white cotton gloves.

Store executives faced the flood with bitterness. Said one: "The American public has not yet decided to do without things during the war." Said another: "Patriotism? Sense? Everywhere it's me—me I'll take care of."

One of the inevitable results of such an attitude is a flourishing black market. News agencies have already informed us about the rackets of the "meat leggers." Here is an account of their doings in *Time*:

Harried Washington officials last week guessed that up to 20% of all livestock slaughtered is going to black marketers; in New York City alone illegal meat sales total about $2,500,000 weekly.

Cleveland Press Reporter Clayton Fritchey scouted the countryside, came back with grisly pictures of carcasses in rat-ridden, blood-stained slaughter barns, a shocking story of racketeers who had already sidetracked 40% of the city's meat supply.

Much of the problem is in the meat industry itself—it is one of the biggest and most complex in the U.S. Sugar is effectively controlled through 17 refineries; gasoline is carefully checked through 500 refineries. But meat grows on millions of U.S. farms and ranches, is slaughtered in tens of thousands of big and little abbatoirs, is sold in 223,000 butcher shops.

But plenty of the blame rests squarely on U.S. meat buyers. With more free cash than ever before and a shortage-sharpened yen for meat, U.S. citizens pay without complaint far over ceiling prices.

CRIME AND YOUTH

The morale of the country is, of course, affected not only by black-market manipulations but also by temptations of other kinds. Wine consumption jumped from 66 million gallons in 1937 to 111 million gallons in 1942 and continued to rise in 1943. The morals of the younger generation seem particularly to be affected. They grew up in an atmosphere of very little restraint, for it was considered old-fashioned and wrong for parents or schools to interfere with the "free development" of the child. Now one is forced to realize the drawbacks of such methods of education. One of America's outstanding educators, Nicholas Murray Butler, President of Columbia University, wrote:

A chief reason why there is in the U.S. the present widespread . . . outbreak of crime and disorder on the part of American youth is that the fundamental place of discipline in education seems to have been quite forgotten. . . . The rabbit is at liberty to run about the garden where his life is passed, and feed upon such plants, weeds and flowers as may attract him . . . . To call any such process education is in the highest degree absurd.

What is meant by the frequently mentioned "juvenile delinquency" is illustrated by the following three quotations:

(1) Suddenly, the country is aware of what war is doing to its children. The newspaper-reading public has been assailed by lurid accounts of murders, muggings, rapes and robberies committed by adolescent boys, of little girls leaving home to play harlot. It has been shocked by figures—15% here, 35% there—which add up to an estimated increase of 20% in juvenile delinquency since the start of 1942. The increase is greatest in the 10-13 age-group and it is not due to petty sins like stealing fruits or breaking windows.

Though the basic reasons for delinquency (broken homes, extreme poverty, incompetent or depraved parents) still exist, war is directly responsible for the boom in badness. When fathers go to war and mothers go to work, children seek companionship and amusement in pool rooms, poorly policed parks and areaways where crime breeds freely. War's sanction of violence and hatred makes children feel that it's smart to be immoral.

We have the biggest "crime load" of any civilized nation. The bulk of the offenses that roll up the

nation's crime toll are the crimes against property —burglary, robbery, larceny and auto theft. These are pre-eminently "youth crimes." The number of these offenses committed by youth is all out of proportion to its share in the population.

Youth from 16 to 21 supplies 40% of the nation's burglars, 28% of its robbers, 22% of its larcenists, and 50% of the auto thieves.

The annual cost of crime and its control is usually estimated at about $15,000,000,000 a year.

(2) To put down this latest outbreak of juvenile delinquency, New York's Police Commissioner Lewis J. Valentine added 1,000 policemen to the forces already patrolling the infected areas, hoping to clean up the epidemic.

(3) From around the U.S. came overwhelming evidence that the Khaki-mad "victory girl" was a worse menace than the prostitute:

Lieut. Commander Michael Wishengrad, the Navy's New York venereal-disease control officer, said that nonprofessional pickups between 15 and 19 accounted for three out of four infections. Eighteen hundred random cases reported to Washington indicated at least 64% of infections come from "amateurs."

Lieut. Commander Clarence J. Buckley, Wishengrad's Philadelphia counterpart, put the figure higher: "These kids outnumber the streetwalkers four to one."

Though Mexican workers now occupied San Antonio's famed "spictown cribs," the rate of delinquency among young girls had increased 350% in two years. One of every four girl "car hops" at the city's drive-ins was found to be venereally infected. Said a social worker among the professional prostitutes: "The girls are sore as all getout. They say the young chippies who work for a beer and sandwich are cramping their style."

Wrote a correspondent from Norfolk: "Whereas, before Pearl Harbor, the majority of Norfolk's prostitutes were professionals, today probably 85% to 90% are amateurs. Many are young girls lured to Norfolk by the promise of big-paying jobs. Hundreds of these girls arrive each week. They hang around bus terminals while phoning for a room somewhere. . . . Farm girls and clerks from small towns find it easy to have all the men they want . . . many do not charge for their services."

WAR ROMANCE CLINIC

Some of the remedies employed against these outbursts of juvenile crime are typically American:

So the *Herald-American's* "War Romance Clinic" was born. Editor Malloy launched it amid typical Hearst ballyhoo; the wife of Chicago's Major Edward Kelly was persuaded to say for publication, "What a boon it will be . . ."; *Herald-American* delivery trucks had their sides plastered with promotion ads that screamed, "Soldier, You're Breaking My Heart!"

Sample case histories from the column "I am 19 . . . I foolishly trusted a man whom I met at a picnic. We talked of marriage. Later I found he was married . . . . I no longer care for him. But what am I to do about our child? Added to that problem I have met a sailor from Boston who has fallen in love with me . . . . Shall I have this baby and say nothing to the sailor? He does not know."

Answer: "Have your baby . . . . Do not mention your condition to the sailor."

"My husband was classified in 1-A and, of course, was called . . . . All our friends are married . . . and kept asking this one man to be my escort (at parties) . . . . I did not mind his company . . . . Now I yearn for it . . . . I am beside myself . . . . We are both in love. What am I to do?"

Answer: "Tell him . . . if he is half the man your husband is he will not tempt you further."

"My daughter is in a pitiable condition. She is not yet 18 and about to give birth to an illegitimate child. The father is a married man who is in the service. He took my daughter to a tavern and gave her the first drink she ever had . . . ."

Answer: "You can take action against this innkeeper."

A month and a half old, the "Clinic" is thriving, evidence that intimate goo about other people's troubles is a salable product in war as in peace.

SOBER CRITICISM

There are, of course, people who realize that this is the wrong way of treating a nation's morale in war time, and that it would be far better to make the people face hard facts. One of them is M. J. Maas, Congressman from Minnesota:

After he returned in October from four months' service in the Pacific as a colonel in the Marine Corps Reserve, Mel Maas had taken his observations on the Navy's "bungling" to Admiral King and Secretary Knox. Then he had gone to see President Roosevelt. He did not seem to get anywhere. Last week, in a radio speech that Navy officials tried to persuade him not to make, he told his story to the people.

It was not a pretty story. "The public has been misled all along on the status of our military and naval operations in the Pacific," said Melvin Joseph Maas. "Unjustified optimistic releases created the impression that all was proceeding well in our war with Japan . . . . Defeats and disasters have been . . . announced as successes and victories for our forces."

Why Deception? The oft-stated reason for military secrecy is to withhold information that might benefit the enemy. Mel Maas thought he knew another reason, and it was the blackest charge in his book: "Possibly the motive for this policy of mishandling war facts is to keep from stirring up the people and Congress, in the fear that the people, through Congress, might force some reforms on the executive bureaus." In effect, Congressman Maas charged the military leaders with concealing the facts to cover their mistakes and the mistakes of their subordinates. How this is done, according to Congressman Maas:

"When our losses are admitted, it is long after they occur, and, whether by design or mere repeated coincidence, such losses are almost always made public coincident with the announcement of

some current success, or at least optimistic prediction from Washington, thus softening the blow."

A similar idea was expressed by the writer of a letter to *Time*:

It is true that the American people are acting like a bunch of spoiled kids, but that is the way we are being treated. We are pampered patriots. We are getting a few drops of castor oil in a cup full of political honey.

It will take a crack on the chin to make us stand up and fight. Don't let us bask in the sunshine of victory, nibbling on chocolate-covered communiques of military achievement, while our sons and brothers and husbands are wallowing in the mud and blood of war throughout the world.

THE PRINTED WORD

But quite apart from the influence on the war morale of the people which the secretive handling of war news might have, secrecy in the handling of news and the American desire for thrill and sensations do not go well together. This was proved in the case of the Casablanca Conference. The newspapers were not allowed to report on the meeting of Roosevelt and Churchill until it was over. Yet, owing to the hints of many newspapers, everybody in America knew that something extraordinary was underway even though they did not know exactly what it was. As a result, people expected much more than what actually took place and in the end were disappointed.

The amount of tension and disappointment in those days is well described in the following passage:

In Pittsburgh a housewife turned on her radio, heard Commentator H. V. Kaltenborn orating about "unconditional surrender." Waiting to hear no more, she raced to a telephone, called her husband, a shop foreman in a Pittsburgh mill. To him she breathlessly imparted the glorious news that the war had ended. Result: the foreman told his men, they celebrated while furnaces began to cool.

Having been kept waiting longer than the public, many editors had anticipated news of decisions as well as of a meeting. Hoping for a mountain, they felt they had been given only a mouse. Editorialized the *Baltimore Sun*: "Disappointment rather than enthusiasm was the chief emotion."

Said Commentator-Author William L. Shirer: "The unprecedented build-up . . . was a psychological mistake."

In spite of the fact that the Americans are working more today than they have been for a long time, the circulation of detective, adventure, romance, and movie magazines has increased by almost five millions.

The American Government has gone into the magazine business itself by publishing, since January 1943, through the OWI, a magazine *Victory*, which *Time* calls "a frankly propagandistic picture magazine." About this new magazine *Time* says:

Though U.S. citizens own it and are paying for it, they will never see it according to OWI; *Victory* is to be distributed overseas only.

Information about the U.S. has been extremely scarce in the Eastern Hemisphere. Newsstands in such cities as Ankara have been stacked with Axis publications. Europe has been flooded with the Nazi propaganda publication *Signal*.

To counter this Axis advantage, OWI first tried distributing legitimate U.S. magazines overseas. This is still being done in a small way, but OWI was not satisfied because: 1) most U.S. magazines are printed only in English, would be ineffective in places like Turkey; 2) plain-spoken U.S. magazines, in OWI's opinion, are not always fit for readers in Allied and neutral nations because they do not always follow the U.S. propaganda line exactly.

Current plans: 225,000 copies in English, 50,000 in Afrikaans, 75,000 French, 75,000 Portuguese, 40,000 Spanish, 75,000 Arabic; total 540,000. *Victory* will sell for the foreign equivalent of 25 cents, will be doled out free to people the U.S. wants to impress.

To make *Victory* look more like a privately owned magazine, OWI decided that it ought to print advertising to take away the Government taint.

All advertising must have Government approval (i.e., must be censored); only institutional advertising will be accepted.

THE STAGE

Believing that America, in spite of many adverse elements, may one day produce her own forms of culture out of the many strange ingredients of which she consists, it was with particular interest that we turned to the manifestations of American cultural life in war time. We found them most disappointing. It does not look as if the rest of the world were missing anything of great intellectual or cultural value as a result of America's relative isolation during the years of war.

The first thing that strikes one is that most leaders in the cultural field were in a great hurry to jump onto the "War and Patriotism" bandwaggon. But this is done more easily in advertising than in art. In an ad you just add a wisecrack like "Buy buy War Bonds or Bye bye Democracy" and the trick is done. It still remains an ad. In art, if you add a few patriotic slogans, it still may do the trick, but will it still be art?

The first great "smash hit" among the war plays was Maxwell Anderson's *The Eve of St. Mark* which was played two months in 46 separate theaters all over the United States. *Life* calls it "this war's first serious play showing American soldiers in action" and describes it thus :

Dealing simply and sincerely with the problem of a youth who goes to war and is forced to make the decision between living and dying, it is a good play to show on Main Street. Taking his title from Keats' poem, *The Eve of Saint Mark*, Anderson uses the legend that ghosts of persons slated to die appear on that night. Quizz West, a young farm boy drafted from a closely knit family and a sweetheart, finds himself on a much-bombed island in the Philippines on the eve of St. Mark. In a stirring dream sequence he pleads first with his mother and then with his girl to tell him whether he should fight or retreat. Spiced with the crisp soldier dialog of Anderson's *What Price Glory?* this play has more mood than plot, is warmer in emotions, embraces the home front as well as the foxholes.

Time adds :

"*The Eve of St. Mark* is the first successful U.S. war play. Its artistic qualities are debatable, but it is vivid theater, beautifully staged, and the story it tells, unvarnished in its simplicity, is unbeatable in its appeal."

Which is one way of saying that this play is better as propaganda than as art. Now, if this is the case with a play which belongs to the group of outstanding serious productions, what are we to expect from the other types of American plays ? Very many of them seem to be sexy burlesque with occasional waving of U.S. flags. There is the Broadway hit *Strip for Action*. In it one of the girls, when undressing in a strip-tease act, turns to the soldiers present and says :

"You are fighting to save American womanhood, aren't you? Alright, have a look at what you are defending."

The leading dramatic couple on the American stage, Lynn Fontanne and Alfred Lunt, followed this trend by producing a comedy *The Pirate* of which *Life* writes :

The Pirate is a larkish blend of musical comedy, poetical farce and circus, obviously designed to cheer a wartime public. Considering its full bag of tricks *The Pirate* is a brilliant carnival, the luxurious sceneries and costumes are as dazzling as a jungle full of parrots.

THE SCREEN

About the same thing may be said of the movies. They have not changed much either except that, according to the two American magazines, they have declined in quality. Instead of "spine-chilling super-thrillers" they are now called "red, white, and blue action hits." The gangster in the popular underworld movies has been replaced by the fifth columnist. One of the most successful in this category, to judge from *Life*, was the film *Saboteur*. The scoundrel when pursued by Uncle Sam's arm of the law flees to the top of the Statue of Liberty—what profound symbolism!—and falls from there to his death.

To the following three film reviews of *Time* magazine there is nothing we could add :

(1) *Lucky Jordan* deals with a question that seems to trouble some scenarists: where do U.S. gangsters fit into the war effort?

The story concerns a racket king named Lucky Jordan whose somewhat coarse way of life is interrupted by the Army. Despite his lawyer's efforts to "put in a fix" on his draft board, Jordan is clapped into uniform. By the standard Hollywood formula this should make a new man of him, but Jordan is really tough; he haughtily defies sergeants and Army discipline, finally kidnaps a pretty canteen hostess and makes a getaway. Then he discovers that his double-crossing lieutenant, one Slip Moran, has usurped his racket throne and worked up a new dodge—stealing tank specifications to sell to Nazi spies.

A hijacking chase follows to determine whether Moran or Jordan delivers the plans and collects the seventy-five grand. Somehow Jordan winds up employing his shotgun in the service of Uncle Sam.

As a sociological treatise, *Lucky Jordan* shows that U.S. gangsters are infinitely nicer than Nazis because 1) they are Americans, 2) they do not like to "go around beating up old women."

(2) *Hangmen Also Die* is another in a long line of inside-Occupied-Europe melodramas, tailored according to a pat Hollywood formula: murder, intrigue, brutal beatings, black villains, hair-raising escapes and love-under-difficulties. A venerable professor gives his life to thwart the dastardly inspector; the professor's pretty daughter gives her reputation—to throw the inspector off the scent, she lets herself be discovered in Dr. Svoboda's bedroom by her fiancé.

(3) *They Got Me Covered.* The plot hangs on Hope's (the leading actor's) misadventures as a correspondent, beginning with his recall from Moscow because he was scooped on the Nazi invasion of Russia and going on to his efforts to out-smart an Axis spy ring in Washington. The devious chase leads him to boudoirs, Niagara Falls, a burlesque queen's bed, a beauty salon and finally to the spies' council of war in the salon showroom where Hope tries to conceal himself by posing as a clothes dummy on a bicycle.

Many other movies are just plain sexy, for example, *Du Barry Was A Lady* which, according to *Life*, won fame by a "rowdy bedroom scene." Large is the number of musical comedies. In 1943, according to *Time*, 39 per cent of all Hollywood pictures-

in-production were musical comedies, i.e., twice as many as in the previous year. The magazine explains: "Obvious object: an anodyne for U.S. war pains." One of these comedies is a film to which *Time* has the following to say:

The Crystal Ball is an undressing contest between blonde seductive Virginia Field and redheaded (for this film) Paulette Goddard. Miss Goddard does not take off quite as much as Miss Field but she does it twice as often and eventually wins the prize.

Another big success was *The Constant Nymph*, of which *Life* shows 15 photos—all close-up details of the various phases of the kiss which Charles Boyer, "Hollywood's first lover," gives his partner.

Incidentally more people than ever go to the movies:

The U.S. people are going to the movies more than they ever did before. Nationwide cinema attendance is up 25% from a year ago; in the major cities, 40%. Theater managers found audiences the rowdiest in their memory: they howled, hissed and booed at pictures, demanded Westerns, carved their initials on seats, sometimes even fired buckshot at the screen. War workers brought alarm clocks, set them to go off when they had to leave for work.

Of course, the Americans still have their old enthusiasm for the private lives of the stars, and it is to gratify this interest that *Time* publishes items such as this:

Cinemactress Anne Shirley sued a Hollywood studio for $100,000 because the studio used a double's legs in one close-up and "said double's legs were of unflattering dimensions."

THE RADIO

Although we run the risk of boring our readers, we must say almost the same about the radio as we said about stage and screen. Or rather we will let *Time* say it. But it is this very repetition of the line of "War and Patriotism" being tagged on superficially to everything that proves that this is typical and not an exception.

Famous in American radio entertainment are the "soap operas," endless dramatized stories, sponsored mainly by the large soap manufacturers to advertise their products. They are usually on the air every day for 15 minutes, over a large number of stations. The influence which the war has had on the "soap operas" is described by *Time*:

Soap opera went to work for the Government this week, on a grandiose double-life basis worked out by OWI. The scheme: The two-dozen-odd washboard weepers will continue to do business at their same old spot, with the same old plots. In addition they will put on an entirely different show each day, using the same characters beloved of millions of housewives but involved in entirely different adventures. What these new Government-inspired adventures will be is up to OWI. But listeners who never get enough of CBC's *Our Gal Sunday* will be able to follow her breathless career as usual at 12.45 p.m.; earlier that day they may follow her in a story promoting OWI's "Message" on the United Nations. *Big Sister* will double in a different story about "Victory Homes," *Young Dr. Malone* in "Home Nursing," *Portia Faces Life* in "Salvage," *Stella Dallas* in "The Merchant Marine."

Time also tells us which were the most popular programs of 1943:

1) Fibber McGee & Molly
2) Jack Benny, the gagman and comedian
3) Charlie McCarthy, the speaking doll
4) Bob Hope, the comedian
5) The Aldrich Family, one of the soap operas
6) Lux Soap Radio Theater
7) Maxwell House Coffee variety show
8) Bing Crosby, the crooner
9) Walter Winchell, the gossipist
10) Kate Smith, the singer

The Americans still have plenty of time for all kinds of nonsense:

NBC has a program "Truth or Consequences." People who participate must bear the consequences if they give the wrong answer. Mrs. Dennis J. Mullane was asked "How many Kings of England possessed the name Henry?" She guessed five and had to accept the consequences.

They were: to open the letters which the announcer asked his listeners to write, and count the pennies which he besought them to enclose. That would give Mrs. Mullane time to reflect upon British history, might give her enough pennies to buy war bonds for her son in the Marines. It would also give the sponsor an index to the pulling power of his show.

But no one, least of all Mrs. Mullane, who is a ruddy-faced, unassuming Staten Island housewife, had any idea that the request would bring a deluge of 210,000 letters, 315,000 pennies and assorted small change. Total income $3,150.

* * *

In last month's analysis of American wartime life we dealt with such topics as advertisements, patriotism, publicity, the attitude toward the war; in the present issue with manpower problems, work, politics, youth, and the arts. All in all, we have covered a wide section of everyday life and, as we said at the beginning of the article in our last month's issue, we arrive at the conclusion—in spite of certain differences to be found here and there—that basically nothing has changed in the USA.